IN THE DRAWINGS

The drawings filed on October 16, 2003 were objected to by the Examiner as Figure 1a should have been designated by a legend such as – Prior Art --. Corrected drawings were filed on January 25, 2006.

REMARKS

Figure 1a of the drawings has been rejected for lack of a designation as prior art. Corrected drawings are being filed herewith.

Claim 19 is objected to because the term "the server" is recited whereas only a "plurality of servers" was recited previously in the claim. Claim 19 has been corrected to overcome this objection.

Claims 19 – 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This deficiency has been corrected in the accompanying claim amendments.

The Examiner has advised the Applicant of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to point out the invention and the invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made. Applicant states that all of the inventions claimed in the claims are commonly owned and were made on the same invention date.

Claims 23, 25, 32, 34-35 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,611,516 to Pirkola et al. According to the Examiner, Pirkola teaches all the steps of independent claim 23, including a method of receiving an SMS message from a sender in one wireless communication network and forwarding the SMS message to a recipient in another wireless communication network (Pirkola Abstract).

According to the Examiner, Pirkola discloses the steps of (a) receiving an SMS message on a hardware device located in the message sender's wireless network that is connected to the internet and programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via wireless communications and the internet (Pirkola, col 23, lines 26 – 52); (b) forwarding a message to a server device via the internet that is programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via the internet;

(c) determining if the message is an SMS message from an authorized user; (d) determining the SMS message recipient and the recipient's wireless communication network (Pirkola, col. 23, line 26 – col. 24, line 3); (e) forwarding the SMS message via the internet from the server device to a hardware device located in the recipient's wireless communication netowrk that is connected to the internet and programmed to receive and forward SMS messages via wireless communications and the internet (Pirkola, col. 24, lines 9 – 30); and (f) forwarding the SMS message to the desired recipient via wireless communication from the heardware device in the desired recipient's network (Pirkola, col. 24, lines 26 – 30).

Pirkola discloses a system that includes a cellular network, a public switched telephone network (PSTN) and a mobile IP-telephony network (MIPTN), and associated gateways that translate the otherwise incompatible communications between those networks. The gateway functions provide interfaces between the PSTN, the cellular, and the MIPTN networks. The gateways also provide a dynamic mapping function between the PSTN/cellular addresses (E. 164) and the MIPTN (internet protocol, or IP) addresses. Pirkola provides a means for cellular subscribers who are roaming in MIPTN networks, or for MIPTN subscribers who are roaming in cellular networks, to be locatable within those "foreign" networks, and to conduct communications, including SMS messaging, with other terminals located outside of the network.

Pirkola's invention is totally reliant upon boundary gateways maintaining dynamic mappings between incompatible cellular (E.164) addresses and MIPTN (IP) addresses for subscribers of either network-type who may be roaming within another, incompatible network-type.

Applicant's invention, by contrast, uses one or more maintenance servers connected to the internet and functioning solely within the internet as a source of routing information and a

conduit for routing SMS messages to either a second wireless (cellular) network, or an e-mail account maintained on the internet, or an HTML interface where the recipient can access the site and download the message. Applicant's invention requires an authorized user to first establish an account, and to provide routing information and personal information to identify potential SMS message recipients, to be maintained on the server. Amongst the routing information is a user-supplied "recipient identification code." This may be an arbitrary code, such as "James" or "ABC123" that is used by an SMS message sender to identify a recipient that was previously added to the list of potential recipients being maintained and cross referenced to an authorized user account. When an SMS message is being "addressed," the recipient identification code, along with other electronic and device-supplied information, is used to identify the recipient and to enable the server to route the SMS message to the appropriate recipient.

According to applicant's invention, in addition to conventional cellular SMS messaging services, SMS messages may be received at the server from other computers on the Internet using e-mail or HTML protocols to send such messages. In addition, SMS messages may be sent from the server to an e-mail account or stored on the server where it may be retrieved using an HTML interface. All such SMS messages use a recipient identification code to identify both the recipient and associated information, such as the recipient's method of delivery and associated addressing or routing information. These embodiments are claimed in new claims 38 – 42.

Pirkola does not disclose the use of any user-supplied information. Nor does Pirkola suggest an SMS messaging system in which SMS messages can be sent only to recipients whose routing information has previously been supplied by an authorized user.

Applicant's remaining claims have been amended to incorporate the limitation that an SMS message must include a recipient identification code from which routing information can

be obtained. No other prior art of record discloses or suggests using a user-created recipient identification code.

Applicant believes that the amendments to the remaining claims make applicant's invention patentable over the prior art of record, and respectfully requests the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowability.

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Respectfully submitted,

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